

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-7 and 10-36 in the Office Action mailed October 11, 2002. The foregoing amendment amends Claims 1, 10, 18, 26, 34, 35 and 36.

Rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. However, the Examiner indicated that Claims 1-7 would be allowable if rewritten to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The foregoing amendment amends Claim 1 so that Claims 1-7 are now in condition for allowance.

***Lesley* and *Resnick* Do Not, Either Singularly or In Combination, Describe, Teach or Suggest the Invention of Claims 10-36**

Lesley describes a network-based solution for a subscriber's own prepayment and own use of prepaid telecommunication services. However, *Lesley* does not allow a subscriber to prepay a monetary amount for the use by or services rendered to another subscriber. Although *Lesley* describes a subscriber account number and a prepay account number, these account numbers do not allow a subscriber to pay for services used by another subscriber. The subscriber account number corresponds to the number used to identify a subscriber's basic subscription to the communications network. For example, the subscriber's account number may correspond to the subscriber's home telephone number or business telephone number. Column 7, lines 1-5. The prepaid account number is a number which identifies the subscriber's subscription to the prepayment network service. *Lesley* describes that one or both account numbers may be used in database record depending on how the prepayment network service is accessed and implemented. Column 7, lines 16-22.

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The foregoing amendment to independent Claims 10, 18, 26, 34, 35 and 36 clarifies that the account number is associated with a recipient other than the subscriber associated with the calling line number. Claim 10 recites an account associated with a recipient other than a subscriber associated with a calling line number account associated with the calling line number. Claim 18 recites a telecommunications account associated with a recipient other than the subscriber associated with a calling line number account associated with the calling line number. Claim 26 recites executing a transaction between the calling line number account associated with a subscriber and one of the other accounts associated with a recipient other than the subscriber. Claim 34 recites an account number corresponding to an account with respect to which the transaction is to be conducted in the billing system, the account associated with the recipient other than a subscriber associated with a calling line number account associated with the calling line number. Claim 35 recites crediting or debiting an account by the transaction amount, the account associated with the recipient other than a subscriber associated with the calling line number. Claim 36 recites crediting or debiting an account by the transaction amount, the account associated with the recipient other than the user.

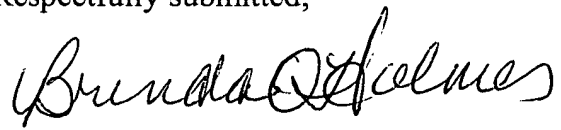
As discussed above, *Lesley* does not allow a subscriber to prepay an amount for use by another subscriber. *Lesley* only describes the prepayment of a subscriber's own account. Moreover, *Resnick* only describes a subscriber's prepayment of the subscriber's own payment account. *Resnick* does not describe that a subscriber can prepay a monetary amount for the use of another subscriber or user. Thus, *Lesley* and *Resnick* do not describe, teach or suggest prepaying an amount for use by another subscriber, as recited by independent Claims 10, 18, 26, 34, 35 and 36.

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CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable and a notice of allowance is requested. If there are any issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference the Examiner is invited to contact Brenda Holmes at 404.685.6799.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda O. Holmes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

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Version of Amendments with Markings to Show Changes Made

1. (Amended) In a telecommunications system functionally interconnecting a service switching point, a service control point, and an intelligent network element, and the telecommunications system including a billing system functionally connected at least to the service control point for retrieval of billing messages, the billing system including telecommunications accounts for charging fees to subscribers with respect to telecommunications services provided to the subscribers, a method for using a communication to conduct a transaction with respect to a telecommunications account, comprising:

receiving the communication at the service switching point, the communication being associated with a calling line number associated with a first telecommunications account;

causing the service switching point to route the communication to the intelligent network element;

causing the intelligent network element to obtain a telecommunications account number and a transaction amount from the communication,

the telecommunications account number corresponding to a second telecommunications account with respect to which the transaction is to be conducted in the billing system;

in response to obtaining the telecommunications account number and the transaction amount, causing the intelligent network element to provide the telecommunications account number, the transaction amount, and [the] a calling line number associated with the second telecommunications account and the communication to the service control point;

in response to receipt of the telecommunications account number, the transaction amount, and the calling line number associated with the second telecommunications account, causing the service control point to make an assignment of the

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telecommunications account number, the transaction amount, and the calling line number associated with the second telecommunications account to a billing message; and

causing the billing system to retrieve the billing message from the service control point,

to note the assignment of the telecommunications account number, the transaction amount, and the calling line number associated with the second telecommunications account to the billing message, and

based on the assignment, to conduct the transaction in the billing system with respect to the second telecommunications account associated with the telecommunications account number by crediting or debiting the second telecommunications account by at least the transaction amount.

10. (Amended) A method for executing a transaction with respect to an account, comprising:

receiving a communication on a calling line associated with a calling line number;

obtaining an account number and a transaction amount from the communication, the account number corresponding to an account with respect to which a transaction is to be conducted, the account associated with a recipient other than a subscriber associated with [the account differing from] a calling line number account associated with the calling line number;

creating a billing message with respect to the calling line number, the billing message including the account number, the transaction amount, and the calling line number; and

using the account number and the transaction amount from the billing message to execute the transaction with respect to the account corresponding to the account number.

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18. (Amended) In a system for billing fees to subscribers for provision of telecommunications services, each subscriber having a telecommunications account in the system, the telecommunications account being associated with at least one calling line number, a method to conduct a transaction with respect to a telecommunications account in the system, comprising:

obtaining a billing message generated as a result of a telecommunications service performed with respect to a calling line number;

in response to obtaining of the billing message, making a determination that the billing message includes an indication that a transaction is to be conducted with respect to a telecommunications account in the system, the telecommunications account associated with a recipient other than the subscriber associated with [differing from] a calling line number account associated with the calling line number; and

in response to the determination, conducting the transaction with respect to the telecommunications account.

26. (Amended) In a telecommunications system wherein a billing message is created with respect to a communication, wherein the billing message is further created with respect to a calling line number account corresponding to a calling line number associated with the communication, and wherein the billing message is obtained by a billing system having access to the calling line number account and to other accounts, a method for execution of a transaction in the billing system between the calling line number account and one of the other accounts to which the billing system has access, comprising:

providing that the billing message includes an indication for the execution of the transaction,

causing the billing system to make a recognition of the indication in the billing message; and

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in response to the indication in the billing message, causing the billing system to execute the transaction between the calling line number account associated with a subscriber and the one of the other accounts associated with a recipient other than the subscriber.

34. (Amended) In a telecommunications system functionally interconnecting a service switching point, a service control point, and an intelligent network element, and the telecommunications system including a billing system functionally connected at least to the service control point for retrieval of billing messages, the billing system including accounts for conducting transactions, a method for using a communication to conduct a transaction with respect to an account, comprising:

receiving the communication at the service switching point, the communication being associated with a calling line number;

causing the service switching point to obtain instructions regarding the communication from a service control point;

based on the instructions from the service control point, causing the service switching point to obtain an account number and a transaction amount from the communication,

the account number corresponding to [the] an account with respect to which the transaction is to be conducted in the billing system, the account associated with a recipient other than a subscriber associated with [differing from] a calling line number account associated with the calling line number;

in response to obtaining the account number and the transaction amount, causing the service switching point to provide the account number, the transaction amount, and the calling line number associated with the communication to the service control point;

in response to receipt of the account number, the transaction amount, and the calling line number, causing the service control point to make an assignment of the account number, the transaction amount, and the calling line number to a billing message

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by including the account number, the transaction amount, and the calling line number in the billing message and by posting the billing message for obtaining by the billing system; and

causing the billing system to retrieve the billing message from the service control point,

to note the assignment of the account number, the transaction amount, and the calling line number to the billing message, and

based on the assignment, to conduct the transaction in the billing system with respect to the account associated with the account number by crediting or debiting the account by at least the transaction amount.

35. (Amended) A method for executing a transaction, comprising:
receiving a communication associated with a calling line number;
obtaining a transaction amount from the communication;
coding the transaction amount and the calling line number into a billing message;
posting the billing message;
obtaining the billing message, and decoding the transaction amount and the calling line number from the billing message; and
crediting or debiting an account by the transaction amount, the account associated with a recipient other than a subscriber [the account] associated with the calling line number [by the transaction amount].

36. (Amended) A system for allowing a user to initiate a transaction and have the transaction conducted, comprising:
a service switching point (SSP)
for receiving a communication from the user, and
for obtaining and acting on instructions regarding the communication;
a service control point (SCP)

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for providing the instructions regarding the communication to the SSP, the instructions instructing the SSP to retrieve transaction information and to forward the transaction information to the SCP,

for including the transaction information in a billing message by assigning the transaction information to at least a field of the billing message, and

for posting the billing message for retrieval by a billing system; and
the billing system

for retrieving the billing message,

for recognizing the transaction information in the billing message, and

based on the recognition, for conducting the transaction based on the transaction information, wherein the SCP is operative to code the transaction amount into a field of the billing message and the account number into another field of the billing message, and wherein the billing system is operative to decode the transaction amount from the field of the billing message and account number from the another field, and to credit or debit an account by the transaction amount, the account associated with a recipient other than the user [the account associated with the account number by the transaction amount].